GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:327
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Impact of Air Pollution
Sigriwal Shri Janardan Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the impact of growing air pollution on health of the citizens of metropolitan/non-metropolitan cities and rural areas of the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether due to increasing pollution, the people are facing many health problems like respiratory diseases, heart attack and cancer and if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the air quality;
(c) whether the Government has any proposal to prescribe any uniform pollution limit across the country as per the standards of World Health Organisation; and
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken by the Government to achieve the target?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) & (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has carried out epidemiological studies in the past to assess the impact of pollution on human health. Air Pollution could be one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases. However, there are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlationship of diseases exclusively due to air pollution. Health effects of air pollution are synergistic manifestation of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity etc. of the individuals.

(c) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has evolved National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in 2009 considering various aspects including health impacts and background values provided in WHO Guidelines for health based threshold values. The Ministry notifies uniform standards, from time to time, which are applicable nationally in respect of industrial emission & discharge, ambient air quality & water quality, ambient noise levels etc. However, in case of sensitive areas, stringent norms have been prescribed.

(d) The major steps being taken by the Government to control air pollution inter alia include the following:-

(i) Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards;
(ii) Formulation of environmental regulations / statutes;
(iii) Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
(iv) Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blend etc.;
(v) Promotion of cleaner production processes.
(vi) Launching of National Air Quality index by the Prime Minister in April, 2015;
(vii) Implementation of Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms in 63 selected cities and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
(viii) Decision taken to leapfrog directly from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020;
(ix) Taxing polluting vehicles and incentivizing hybrid and electric vehicles;
(x) Comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules including Municipal Solid Waste, Plastic Waste, Hazardous Waste, Bio-medical Waste and Electronic Waste notified;
(xi) Notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules;
(xii) Ban on burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste;
(xiii) Promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance;
(xiv) Revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new standards for prevention and control of pollution from industries;
(xv) Regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR;
(xvi) Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
(xvii) Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries.

*****